

The Asbury Agenda Newsletter



A Letter from the Pastor

Dear Friends and Family of Asbury UMC,

Spring is finally here! Praise God! Flowers are blooming. Trees are budding. Sunlight is breaking through the clouds and we can feel the brightness of our souls begin to shine! New life is springing forth everywhere, a sign of God's steadfast love and unchanging goodness. We just celebrated key moments in Christian history as we looked upon the cross and gazed into the empty tomb on Easter Sunday morning saying, "He is not here! He is risen!" Hallelujah!

It somehow feels even better this year as we have also broken through the pandemic and see life being restored in our nation and around the world. Yes, it is still with us but we've learned how to adapt and keep it from holding us back from enjoying life together. I've seen many people returning to in-person worship and our attendance numbers are rapidly approaching pre-pandemic status even if some of the people aren't the same ones as before. New life is coming to Asbury as well. Hallelujah!

As exciting as all this new life can be, there is still much work to do for the kingdom of God. More than ever, people need to have the solid foundation of faith to get through these troubling times. Anxiety, violence, brokenness, loneliness, division, war and prejudices of all kinds are ramping up. It can be very frightening for those who don't know where to turn. Depression and mental health issues are growing. This world needs Jesus to find its way back, or more succinctly, find its way forward into peace, love and joy. We need hope that... (Cont. next pg.)

In This Issue

What Does a Pastor Do? Pg 2-3

Church Chimes Pg 4

Endowment Team Pg 4

Cemetery Update Pg 4

Prayer List Pg 5

New Members Pg 6

Combined Worship Pg 6

Calling All Quilters Pg 6

(Cont. from prev. pg.) ... there is something better, there is a future worth waiting for, worth working for.

New life, new hope, and the joy of God's unfailing love is the gift that we celebrated on Easter morning. How can we share that good news with those around us who need a place to stand, to know they are loved and a hopeful future awaits them through the love of God we find in Christ? Invite them to church. If you have been absent from worship, come back to your first love and take your place in your family at Asbury! Bring friends. Tell them about our livestreaming so even if they can't come, they can be with us as we worship. Let us return to our faith. Let us help the kingdom of God grow in grace and love all around us as we work for our Savior, Jesus Christ. Then let the Holy Spirit work as we see new life springing up all around us in the name of Jesus, the Christ, our Messiah, our Friend, and our Lord. Now that is the story of Easter!

The grace and peace of Easter to us all,

Rev. Julie A. Lewis

What Does the Pastor Do All Week?

I am often asked what I do all week, since most of us know Pastors only really work on Sunday for a couple of hours, right? So, I thought I'd help answer this question and put it into a short story for the newsletter. I picked the week of Ash Wednesday and gave a list of things that were part of my working days.

Disclaimer: Every week is different in some way and not everything listed here happens every week. It's just one week in the life of your pastor (without all of my personal stuff – just “church stuff.”)



MONDAY:

- One hour of private prayer and devotion time in the morning (every day)
- Checked emails (about 10) and responded as needed
- Registered for a Conference seminar
- I got together the information needed for the bulletin and the worship team, selected the music for the 9am service and the call to worship and opening prayer for the 11am service, made sure we had all the elements needed for that Sunday. This was then sent to all the members of the worship team and sent to Kristen to put the Bulletin together.
- Monday Bible Study from 10:30-noon. Set up before the study.
- Talked to the Building Maintenance Team about the installation of the heating/AC units in the Matthew's Room and Children's Education office.
- Got ashes ready for the Ash Wednesday service.
- Sent bulletin information for Ash Wednesday to Kristen. Emailed and called people to participate in the service.
- Had a Zoom meeting with the Annual Conference Sessions Team about Annual Conference.
- Worked on the Service of Remembrance for Annual Conference, found a call to worship and opening prayer, and contact people to participate in the service.
- Designed and ordered Easter Service Invitation postcards
- Answered text messages from 3 members.
- Review the Executive Leadership Team meeting agenda.
- Spent time preparing the Bible Study for the ELT meeting.
- Spent time preparing the Bible Study for Lent.
- Posted pictures on the Asbury Facebook page.

(Cont. next Pg.)

TUESDAY:

- Printed team reports for ELT meeting. Emailed them to the team.
- Responded to a request for a meeting plus 7 other emails
- Updated the prayer list and held the Zoom prayer group session to pray over the list. Sent it to the Office Manager and Social Media person to be printed and put on the website.
- More time preparing the Bible Study for the ELT meeting.
- More time preparing for the Lenten Bible Study.
- Proofread the Ash Wednesday bulletin.
- Attended the Dorcas Circle Meeting.
- Copies materials for the ELT meeting.
- Spent a couple of hours reading and study for the sermon (sermon prep)
- Attended the Youth Group Shrove Tuesday dinner.
- ELT meeting for approximately two hours.

WEDNESDAY:

- Ash Wednesday ashes in the parking lot from 7:00-9:00 AM
- Meeting with Kristen to coordinate office/church meetings and activities.
- Checking and responding to multiple emails.
- Sermon preparation for about 2 hours.
- Talked with the Social Media person about the Asbury Agenda
- Review Ash Wednesday service and set up the Sanctuary
- Responding to text messages from members
- Discuss placement of the AED box near the church office with the Building Maintenance team.
- Ash Wednesday service: discuss camera angles with Tech Team, oversee set up of Communion elements, review musical elements with the Music Team.
- After service make sure everything is cleaned up and locked down.

THURSDAY:

- Preview videos for Bible Study
- Type up handouts for Bible study and review teaching plan.
- Emails and text messages
- Created the Asbury Agenda video and emailed it to the Social Media person.
- Respond to request for help with a heating bill using the Pastor's Discretionary fund.
- Lead Bible study.

FRIDAY:

DAY OFF

SATURDAY:

- At the Lighthouse Retreat in Lewes, Delaware
- Review sermon during break time
- Answer emails and texts
- Check social media and post about Retreat
- Record sermon for podcast when home.

On Sunday mornings, I am responsible for making sure all is ready to go and this takes a different shape depending on what is happening during worship. We have great teams that make it all happen and I am grateful for all of them. I hope this gives you an idea of the various things a pastor does during the week and again, I say that each week is different. Maybe that's why I love my job! Be blessed!

church chimes

We have some exciting news to announce! If you didn't notice, on Easter Sunday we had a new chime system (carillon bells) that rang from our bell tower and steeple! Due to gifts in memory of Anne Mace and George Wicks, plus some from the Endowment Fund, we were able to purchase a bell chime system for Asbury UMC. You will hear the bells ring a call to worship for the 11:00AM service and hear it play hymns at specific times during the week. Keep your ears attuned and listening! We can't wait to hear the melodies of heaven continue to ring through the town.

Thank you to the Memorial Team and Endowment Team for making this happen. To God be all the glory!



Endowment Team Report

Asbury's Endowment Fund is healthy and growing! Recently, the Endowment has funded the installation of 2 air conditioner units in the Sunday School area and is assisting with the purchase and installation of a Carillon bell system.

The Endowment includes funds available for new missions and ministries. If you have an idea of a mission or ministry that you would like to champion for Asbury, there may be funding available to support it.

The Endowment Fund was also recently blessed by a bequest from Dan Bloxom when he passed away. If you would like more information about naming Asbury UMC in your will, please let us know.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennings Hastings

Cemetery Update

Since our last report to the congregation a lot has happened!

A significant amount of time and energy has gone into establishing a new entity, Duck Creek Cemetery Group, Inc., to own, operate, and maintain our four cemeteries. The four properties are: Glenwood Cemetery, Old Asbury Cemetery, the African-American Cemetery, and Severson Cemetery (on Big Oak Rd.).

The new entity has received approval from the IRS as a not-for-profit entity. At this point, all assets related



related to the cemeteries have been transferred to the DCCG. These include: the checking account, Merrill Lynch accounts, and the deeds to the four locations. DCCG has its own insurance, by-laws, and Board of Directors. This board consists of: Lisa Blough, Doug Covert, Harry Frisby, Ricky Hanks, Jennings Hastings, Michael Keen, Clare Lawrence, Biff Newnam, Sunday Schneider.

We have also laid out 144 additional plots for internment on the north side of Glenwood Cemetery. The dirt pile on the vacant lot (which is still owned by Asbury) has been removed. We have removed a number of trees and are working to enhance the corner of Glenwood Avenue and Main Street. As of today, Asbury is no longer in the cemetery business. The function is now handled by the independent entity of Duck Creek Cemetery Group, Inc. While it may change in the future, all Board members of DCCG are also members of AUMC. The by-laws of DCCG do state that 65% of the Board Members must also be members of Asbury UMC.

Prayer List ~ 4/11/23

Current Concerns:

The Family of Elizabeth Carrow
The Family of Nancy Liehr
Ronald "Jonesy" Jones – in hospital on ventilator
Linda DeVincentis – back problems
Tammy Carns-cancer
John Rutledge
The Haas Family
Remy Welch
Shril Fox
Charlotte Thompson

Recent concerns:

Ann Henning – near end of life
The Family of the man lost in the tornado in Greenwood
Those who need to rebuild after the tornado
The Family of Wayne Mynes

Ongoing concerns:

War in Ukraine
Our nation and its leaders
Our church and its ministries as we move forward
Our police officers & first responders
Healthcare workers and hospitals
Our military and veterans
The United Methodist Church

Long Term concerns:

Steve Beardsley & Family, Kaiden Bergey, Boss Family, Elaine Bromante, Ernest Carlisle, Bill Carney, RJ Conk, Marijane Copes, De'Vana, David DeVincentis, Cheryl Drummond, Nancy Dunkle, E & M, Elaine and Randy Evans, Nettie Mae Goad, Elizabeth Goodman, Scott Heatwole, John Hessler, Lauren Hufnal, Pat Hufnal, Ariel Immel, Walter and Betty Jo Ireland, Melinda Ischia, Kaitlyn (NJ), Bob and Connie Keen, Mary Kelley, Ed Keller, Robert Lewis & Family, Larry Mattila, McGregor Family (NJ), McHenry Family (NJ), Voni McMinn, The Mountain Family, Jim Murray, Wayne Neff, Shirley O'Neill, Valerie Ponsini, The Powderly Family, John Rofrano (NJ), Glenn & Joyce Rude, Chase Southward, Struckman Family, Paul Tebbutt, Donna Tribbett, Nancy Truax, Meredith Wilder

Shut-ins: Arlene Bailey, Jackie Bamberger, AJ Bryson, Jeanne Carson, Elizabeth Jones, Blanche Reed, Bert Shaw, Mary Tebbutt (for addresses, please email the church office)

Military Personnel:

Major Justin Broome, MSgt. Joseph Burns, Patrick Derr, Nathan Foltz, MSgt. Ariodne Lewis, Sgt. Mark Lewis, Ensign Leonard Voss, III (Please email the church for addresses.)

Thank you for your continued prayers!

New Members in the Asbury Family

On April 2, Asbury UMC received 9 new members into our church family. Some are transferring their membership from other churches and some are people who have been attending for some time but had not yet "made it official." These new family members are: Christina Bell, Amelia (Amy) Borkowski, Bart & Jennifer von Klinggraeff, Brenda Metts, Joseph & Nike Morakinyo, Karen Wales, & Charles Woodley.



Thank you for being part of the Asbury family! If you have not yet met these new members, please take the time to introduce yourselves! If you are interested in becoming a member of AUMC please speak to Pastor Julie.



Combined Worship Sunday April 30

We have 5 Sundays in April so on the 5th Sunday we will have our Combined Worship service at 10:00 AM in the Sanctuary with a time of fellowship and food to follow. Since Pastor Julie will be away on the Red Bird Misison trip, the Rev. Dr. Jacqueline Ford, our Conference Directo of Connectional Ministries will be our guest preacher. Come thirsty and hungry for the food and fellowship. See you then!

calling All Sewers and Friends!

It's been three years since we've gathered for our quilting bee and we're thrilled to announce that we are resuming this wonderful ministry! All are welcome!

Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 29th from 9:00-3:00pm. You are welcome to stay the whole time or leave as you are able. Bring a lunch so that we can eat together in fellowship.

This wonderful ministry shows Christ's love by making handmade baby quilts for newly baptized babies and lap quilts that are given to the homebound and to other organizations.

Please bring your own sewing machine, thread, scissors/ cutters, etc. We have a couple of sewing machines for those that do not have a machine. Please let us know in advance if you would like to use one of these!

We also welcome non-sewing help in the form of ironing, fabric cutting, very simple quilt designing, and lunch time help (make a pitcher of sweet tea/coffee, help setting up – you will not be preparing lunch!)



Thank you in advance for all who will support this ministry. If you have any questions about the Quilting Bee please contact either Della Sue Billings or Joyce Sinclair.